

Luohuifu, Anhui.
Feb. 24, 1925.

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Now the time over pay. Here you + I are almost a year older. I did not make up to the fact that our birthdays are so near till last week. I got your package started off a few days ago but I know it will be a month late. It takes at least five weeks this time of year. River travel is so slow + uncertain. Please forgive me - Maybe I'll learn to figure by months after a while. I sent you a little brown hand bag made from the Nanjing tapestry. You are supposed to carry it when you go to the opera and wear your fur wrap. The little silver things I thought you'd be interested in as an example of Chinese hand craft. They were made on the street. The little flat pendant is used as one of the neck ornaments of a precious boy. baby. The butterfly is part of a hair pin. I had him take the pin off for I knew you could never use it that way, and I thought you might be able to use it as a dress ornament or something. It's pretty soft to be much good. The things they make out of a silver dollar are much more durable.

Your box of seeds & dyes came last month
and I am so tickled with it all. Please tell
your mother how much I appreciated the seeds.
Flower seeds are so precious here. I divided some
of them up with my neighbors. I know I am
going to have just lots of fun making them grow.
I have a big yard and a big strong man to do
all my running and digging for me. I know
there will be especially nice flowers too for
you folks always have such lovely ones. I can hardly
wait for the spring rains so I can get started.
Now everything is so dry, we haven't had any
rains for months. The country people are suffering
from the lack of water, wells are empty in many
villages and water has to be carried for miles.
Mr. Goulter went out on a preaching trip last week
and absolutely couldn't buy any green vegetables. The
country people just wouldn't sell it to him, for they
hadn't enough for themselves. We are so near the
river here that we get all the spinach and
carrots etc every day that we need. My new cistern
is entirely empty and I do so need to wash
my head.

You & Aunt Ella have both written of the
horrible cold January you had. I can hardly

imagine what zero weather would feel like here - We laid in six tons of coal last fall and haven't used half of it yet, but we only heat about half our house and it's not as hot as a furnace would be. We pile on the sweaters and woolen under wear and save fuel. That's what the Chinese do. My little Amah has worn four coats today.

Phyllis had a bad croupy cough last week. We were quite worried a couple nights. It's an awful feeling to wake up in the night and not hear her breathing & dash in to see if she is all right. I believe all young parents do that. I know I used to when she was small. We laugh at ourselves the next morning but it isn't funny in the night. She is almost well ^{today} and her own peppy self. She won't sit still on my lap not one second. When she was sick she would stay and be rocked an hour at a time - She went to sleep one night in my arms, first time since she was a tiny baby - It was nice for a treat. But I know I'd get sick of a steady diet of it.

I am getting well initiated into our work here. We have started a mother's club, and are teaching them how to use sewing machines.

They just come in hordes and are so thrilled over it. Most of the ones that came today were wives of our teachers, doctors, preachers etc. Not one of them has a machine. They make their youngster's clothes with long seams all by hand. We are going to declare open house and let them come & have access to our machines certain days of the week. Their lives are so devoid of anything new that this is a big event to them. I seem to carry a lot of the burden of the teaching. It comes as second nature of course and none of the other married women seem to know much about machines. I can make most anything go after working in so many sewing laboratories. We are going to start a cooking division soon too. Don't know how to go about financing it. Guess it will all have to be demonstrations at first. Child feeding is what they need to know more than anything else, especially at weaning time.

I am getting to like Mrs. Bas a lot. She is more like me than anyone here. We play tennis together and have our parties for Chinese guests together etc. We manage to get quite a kick out of life. Come & visit us some year. How I'd love to have you. I'll write the rest on pictures. I love you. Anne